

AMEND THE PRIMARY

The Subcommittee of the State Central Committee to Get to Work Soon.

FULL COMMITTEE IS TO ACT

The Convention Will Settle the Question for the Ensuing Four Years.

The real struggle in the State Democratic Convention, which will assemble in Army Hall at noon on Thursday, June 15th, will be over the primary plan and over the control of the party machinery in this State for the next four years. As the convention will really settle the primary question for the next four years at this time, the control of the State Central Committee will be a matter of secondary importance, but it will be worth considering, inasmuch as the greatest political struggle in years will come in the summer of 1906, when the party nominates a United States senator, Governor and other State officers. The primary question will come up first in the State Central Committee, over the report of the subcommittee, appointed at a recent meeting of the full committee. That subcommittee, made up of the recommendation of the ten district committees, is composed as follows:

First District, Lord T. Smith, of Northumberland; Second District, George W. Jones, of Berkeley; Third District, John S. Haywood, of Richmond; Fourth District, Robert C. Williams, of Petersburg; Fifth District, J. M. Hooker, of Patrick; Sixth District, H. O. Humphreys, of Bedford City; Seventh District, John S. Patton, of Charlottesville; Eighth District, Gardner L. Boothe, of Alexandria; Ninth District, Thomas A. Lynch, of Patrick; Tenth District, Edward Echols, of Staunton.

WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

This subcommittee has not yet organized, but will, it is understood, get together and formulate a report embodying such recommendations as to changes in the present party plan of primary as it may deem desirable. As this report must be considered and passed upon by the full committee before submission to the convention, it is regarded as essential that the subcommittee shall embody its recommendation in the form of a report, have that printed and sent to all the members of the State Central Committee, and to other prominent Democrats throughout the State in order that they may have opportunity to read, digest and consider the advisability of the changes suggested. With this done, some time before the convention, the members of the full committee will be better prepared to act when they come here June 15th. Indeed, it is expected that the committee will meet the day before the primary and discuss the various suggestions and formulate a report to the convention. The convention will in turn refer the report to the Committee on Resolutions, and it will be incorporated in the report of that committee of the convention.

Outside of the cities, the people of the State appear to be taking little interest in the primary plan, and its future. It is not believed, however, that any one will propose the repeal of the primary plan. Indeed, the most that the opponents of the primary will attempt, in the opinion of men conversant with political conditions in the State, will be to leave the manner of expressing its will or of instructing its legislators to the local party authorities, leaving each county or city to decide for itself whether it will act by primary, mass meeting or county convention.

NO OPEN ENEMIES.

With neither of the factions in the State openly opposing a primary, it is thought unlikely that either would attempt to abolish or repeal it. Amendments to it will undoubtedly be made, one that is certain being the substitution of the ballot for the viva voce plan of voting. A fight will be made also for majority nominations, and in that event for the double primary where more than two aspirants for an office appear.

One thing that will tend to sustain the primary substantially as it stands now is the fact that the congressmen

without exception favor such a method of nominating. The influence of the ten congressmen with the support of the thick-and-thin primary advocates will be sufficient to save the plan from serious assault by its opponents. Under the minority nomination plan, the incumbent of an office has a great advantage over the opposition, and this is one reason why the congressmen favor primaries. It makes their tenure of their positions surer.

RICHMONDER A CADET.

Son of Principal W. G. Jones Receives Flattering Appointment.

Edward Darlington Jones, son of Principal W. G. Jones, of Madison school, this city, has been appointed a cadet in the United States revenue service, and will be stationed on the revenue ship Chase, at Portland, Maine, next summer. The young man, who is a graduate of the Richmond High School, is now a student at William and Mary College. He was one of a large class that took the civil service examination. It is understood that only a few of them passed. Mr. Jones stood high among those who did get through and was the only man from the South to make the examination. His success will be pleasant news to the many friends of himself and his parents in this city and elsewhere in the State.

ELKS' GRAND LODGE.

Special Pullman Train to Go From Here to Cincinnati.

Richmond Lodge of Elks is making big preparations for the trip to the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Cincinnati in July. A special train of Pullman cars will run from this city over the Chesapeake and Ohio, taking Elks from Richmond, Petersburg, Manchester, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth and other points in Virginia, and from many points in North Carolina.

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